



IOWA
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"for those who follow"

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June 1, 2006

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 "K" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Fax 202-565-9004

Dear Mr. Williams;

RE: Case #s 34177 and 34178

These cases involve the sale of property from Illinois Central Railroad to Iowa Central and Eastern Railroad.

I understand IC&E is requesting an exemption from the requirement to do an environmental impact assessment of their actions. The acquisition is proposed to increase the amount of rail traffic through several communities and fragile environmental areas within the region of Northeast Iowa. Northeast Iowa is internationally known for its small towns, scenic landscape, important habitat, which includes several federally listed species, tourism and one of the largest wildlife and fish refuges of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

I would urge you to not allow the exemption and require the IC&E railroad to undertake the necessary environmental impact studies and community outreach needed to fully understand the implications of their actions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Ackelson".

Mark C. Ackelson
President